REPORT

Of the Committee on Private Land Claims, in the case of John Jenkins.

DECEMBER 23, 1823.

Read, and, with the accompanying bill, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom were referred the petition and accompanying documents of John Jenkins, have had them under consideration; and

REPORT:

The petitioner states, that, at an early period, he settled on the right bank of the Mississippi river, within the present limits of the state of Louisiana; that, in the year 1813, after he had made considerable improvements, the river rose so high as entirely to overflow his possessions, and render it necessary for him and his family to seek safety on higher ground, which they did, by crossing into the territory, now state of Mississippi; that, in less than a year after, Congress, by an act passed the 14th day of April, 1814, gave to every person who inhabited and cultivated a tract of land in that section of the country, and who had not removed, a right of pre-emption; that his removal to avoid the dangers of an inundation denied him the privileges of said act; wherefore, he prays relief.

The material facts of the petition are proved, as the committee conceive, by the affidavit of John Blanchard. This witness testifies that the petitioner and his family lived near the Mississippi river, in 1812, on a large farm, at a place now known by the name of Mitchell's Settlement; that, during the high water in the year 1813, in descending the river, he saw the petitioner removing his family,

stock, &c. to the Walnut Hills.

Your committee, believing there will be no impropriety in extending to the petitioner the right of pre-emption, report a bill for that purpose.

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